

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
DOE-15 SAS-02 CEQ-01 OES-09 SS-15 ICA-11 DOEE-00
SSO-00 SMS-02 ACDE-00 NRC-05 /170 W
-----016635 091917Z /42

P 091644Z AUG 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3064
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 12225

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: SOVIET COMMENTS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS
NEGOTIATIONS

RW MESSAGE NO. 7

1. IN LUNCHEON CONVERSATION WITH ALTERNATE HEAD OF USDEL
AKALOVSKY, NAZARKIN (ALTERNATE HEAD OF SOVDEL) MADE THE
FOLLOWING POINTS OF INTEREST CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN
US-SOVIET BILATERALS ON RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (RW):

A. SOVIET ARTICLES I-V. NAZARKIN THOUGHT THAT THE
TWO SIDES HAD NO DISAGREEMENT ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE
PROVISIONS, AND THAT THE REMAINING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
U.S. AND SOVIET FORMULATIONS WERE DUE TO DIFFERING LEGAL
DRAFTING STYLES AND, IN SOME INSTANCES, ON MISUNDER-
STANDINGS. HE ALSO SAID SOVDEL HAD CONCLUDED THAT ARTICLE
III WAS REDUNDANT BUT HAD REFRAINED FROM RECOMMENDING
THAT IT BE DROPPED FOR FEAR OF MAKING THE U.S. SUSPICIOUS
ON THE ONE HAND, AND CREATING BUREAUCRATIC PROBLEMS IN
MOSCOW ON THE OTHER.

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B. VERIFICATION. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION ABOUT THE
MEANING OF AMB. LIKHATCHEV'S AUGUST 3 STATEMENT CONCERNING
VERIFICATION (GENEVA 11738), NAZARKIN SAID SOVDEL HAD
LEEWAY IN THIS AREA AND THAT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT OVER-
DRAMATIZE LIKHATCHEV'S REMARK THAT THE U.S. VERIFICATION
PROPOSALS WERE UNACCEPTABLE. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT

A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION OF THE VERIFICATION ISSUE WOULD BE FOUND, BUT POINTED OUT THAT SOVDEL HAD INSTRUCTIONS TO ENGAGE IN REAL NEGOTIATIONS OR THAT ISSUE ONLY AFTER THE FIRST FIVE ARTICLES HAD BEEN AGREED UPON.

C. INDUCED RADIATION WEAPONS. NAZARKIN DENIED THAT THERE WAS ANY LINKAGE WHATSOEVER BETWEEN RADIOLOGICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS AND THE SOVIET-PROPOSED TALKS ON INDUCED RADIATION WEAPONS. IF THERE WAS ANY IMPRESSION TO THE CONTRARY, HE SAID, IT WAS PROBABLY HIS FAULT BECAUSE HE HAD DRAFTED HIS AMBASSADOR'S STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT. WHEN AKALOVSKY POINTED OUT THAT THE U.S. DID NOT SEE ANY SUBSTANTIVE MERIT IN THE SOVIET PROPOSAL AND THAT, IN FACT, OUR EXPERTS COULD NOT UNDERSTAND THE DESCRIPTION OF "INDUCED RADIATION WEAPONS" AS GIVEN IN AMB. LIKHACHEV'S STATEMENTS, NAZARKIN PROFESSED LACK OF FAMILIARITY WITH THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF SUCH WEAPONS. NOR COULD HE IDENTIFY THE "PUBLISHED DATA" ON SUCH WEAPONS TO WHICH LIKHACHEV HAD REFERRED TO. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT, AS HE UNDERSTOOD, AN INDUCED RADIATION WEAPON COULD BE A DEVICE WHICH, WITHOUT ITSELF BEING RADIOACTIVE, CAUSED RADIOACTIVITY IN OTHER OBJECTS (HE THUS CAME CLOSE TO DESCRIBING ONE OF THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF A PARTICLE BEAM WEAPON).

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Message Attributes

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